Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01

IO-13 EB-07 TRSE-00 /083 W

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O R 231514Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5444

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOM

USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS

USEC BRUSSELS

CONFIDENTIAL MADRID 3166

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY REFORM STAGE ENDS WITH END OF MIXED COMMISSION

REF: MADRID 2822

1. THE MIXED COMMISSION OF THE CABINET AND NATIONAL COUNCIL HELD ITS 9TH MEETING APR 22 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER ARIAS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE COMMISSION HAD FINISHED THE PAPER ON REFORM OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN SPECULACONFIDENTIAL

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TION IN THE PRESS THAT THE FUTURE LEGISLATURE WILL CONTAIN A

LOWER HOUSE ELECTED BY FREE DIRECT UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE WITH A MINIMUM OF TWO MEMBERS FOR EACH PROVINCE PLUS A MEMBER FOR EACH 100,000 OR 175,000 INHABITANTS, FOR A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 300 REPRESENTATIVES. THE SENATE, THE CORPORATE UPPER HOUSE, WILL CONTAIN 52 PROVINCIAL SENATORS, 30 UNIVERSITY SENATORS, AND 30 SYNDICAL REPRESENTATIVES. ADDITIONALLY, THE KING WILL NAME 60, AMONG WHICH WILL BE INTEGRATED THE PRESENT "GROUP OF 40." COMMENT: THIS PARALLELS THE INFORMATION PASSED BY OFFICIAL SOURCES TO THE EMBASSY AND REPORTED IN REFTEL.

- 2. THE PAPER ON PARLIAMENTARY REFORM WILL NOW BE TRANSMITTED TO THE GOVT, COMPLETING THE WORK OF THE MIXED COMMISSION. GIVEN THE SECRECY IN WHICH THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION WAS PERFORMED, THE PRESS WONDERS IF, IN ADDITION TO THE DRAFT LAWS ALREADY SUBMITTED TO THE "CORTES," THE REFORM OF THE LAW OF SUCCESSION AND THIS JUST-COMPLETED PAPER ON REFORM OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM, THE MIXED COMMISSION HAD ALSO WORKED ON THE VITAL SUBJECT OF LABOR UNION REFORM.
- 3. JOSE ANTONIO GIRON, EX-MINISTER OF LABOR AND LEADER OF THE NATIONAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION, SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE MIXED COMMISSION TO PRIME MINISTER ARIAS THE SAME DAY. CITING HIS ABSENCE FROM THE FOUR PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION, GIRON SAID THAT THE SAME "PERSONAL REASONS" WOULD PROHIBIT HIM FROM FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN THE MIXED COMMISSION AS WELL. HIS RESIGNATION IS BEING INTERPRETED UNIFORMLY AS A PUBLIC MOVE TO DISTANCE HIMSELF AND HIS VETERANS GROUP FROM THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION. APPARENTLY, THOUGH, GIRON DID NOT WISH TO SAY SO PUBLICLY.
- 4. ALSO APR 22, PRIOR TO THE MEETING OF THE MIXED COMMISSSION, THE PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT HELD A MEETING CHAIRED BY NATIONAL MOVEMENT MINISTER ADOLFO SUAREZ. AMONG OTHER ITEMS, IT NOTED THE PETITION PRESENTED BY THE PROMINENT RIGHT-WING THEORETICIAN FERNANDEZ DE LA MORA AND SIGNED BY 55 CONSERVATIVE NATIONAL COUNCILLORS, CALLING FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, IN LINE WITH ARTICLE 23B OF THE ORGANIC LAW OF THE STATE, TO CONSIDER ALL DRAFT LAWS AFFECTING A FUNDAMENTAL LAW PRIOR TO THEIR SUBMISSION TO THE "CORTES."

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5. COMMENT: BOTH THE RESIGNATION OF GIRON AND THE PETITION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCILLORS ARE SEEN AS SIGNS THAT THE "BUNKER" IS GIRDING ITSELF FOR LEGISLATIVE OPPOSITON TO THE GOVT'S REFORM PROGRAM.

STABLER

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NNN		

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: ELECTION LAW, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 23 APR 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID03166

Document Number: 1976MADRID03166
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760154-0969

From: MADRID

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760430/aaaaayut.tel Line Count: 112 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 76 MADRID 2822 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: GolinoFR

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 30 MAR 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: PRELIMINARY REFORM STAGE ENDS WITH END OF MIXED COMMISSION

TAGS: PINT, SP To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006